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◆NEWS RELEASE◆

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*Community Service in our Schools--*

**HIGH SCHOOLS TO LAUNCH *PROJECT UNIFY*  
EFFORT AIMED AT PROMOTING ACCEPTANCE OF SPECIAL NEEDS  
STUDENTS**

Boise, ID -- 10/21/2011 -- All four of Boise School District's traditional high schools will launch a community service project the week of October 24-28, 2011 to promote acceptance and respect of developmentally challenged individuals. *Project Unify* is an effort on the part of U.S. Special Olympics to make a conscious nationwide/worldwide effort to Stop Using the "R" word, and encourage citizens to change their perceptions of developmentally challenged individuals and promote inclusion by all in sports and life.

The community service project is the brainchild of the District's four Athletic Trainers, each of whom created a new student organization at their respective high schools - the National Honor Society for Sports Medicine. "Students in this new student group wanted to show their support and respect for our special needs students," said **Tony Fitzpatrick**, a nationally recognized Athletic Trainer from Timberline High School.

Boise, Borah, Capital and Timberline high schools plan to launch a pledge drive the week of October 24-28. Friends and classmates will be asked to donate \$1 and pledge not to use the "R" word, as well as to promote inclusion within their schools and community. Participating students will sign pledge cards that will be used throughout the week as a visual display at each high school.

As a culminating event, during football games played at Bronco Stadium on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> students will dress in the same colored shirt to show their resolve for "Ending the Word." Students will be working a table at Bronco Stadium asking fans to "Take The Pledge." 100% of all monies collected during *Project Unify* Week and on Friday, October 28th at Bronco Stadium will be donated to the Idaho Special Olympics.

“Idaho Special Olympics is very excited about our joint project,” said Fitzpatrick. “They have ordered 3000 “Spread the Word to End the Word” face tattoos to give out at the games on Friday and 500 “I’ve Made The Pledge” stickers to give out during *Project Unify* Week.”

Idaho Special Olympics is also putting together some simple raffle items to give away following *Project Unify* Week. Students/faculty/staff who donate during the week will be entered into a drawing for one of the gifts. This community service project supports the Boise School District’s Core Values of Respect, Dignity, Honesty, Responsibility and Teamwork.

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